

Amendments to the Specification

Before the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification, please replace the title with the following title:

-- METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT
OF HEALTHCARE CLAIMS --.

On page 28, please replace the paragraph following the heading "Abstract of the Disclosure" with the following paragraph:

-- The system includes a centralized management unit with access to key flashpoints in the patient account lifecycle at a plurality of healthcare providers. The centralized management unit may manage the entire healthcare claim lifecycle. The centralized management unit includes a database management software system, and a plurality of management control reports, alerts, edits, and checklists are generated at the centralized management unit to ensure reimbursement of claims for healthcare provider services. Operating reports are used to monitor system performance and continuously improve the process using standardized performance measures. An encrypted communication network may be used whereby the centralized management unit accesses the healthcare service provider's existing patient accounts system directly or whereby the healthcare provider can outsource any portion or all of the patient accounts for centralized management. --